

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25

DRC-01 /182 W

----- 115348

R 301037Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8532

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

DAO SGN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: INTRODUCING AND EDUCATING IRANDEL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THE GVN TPJMC LEADERSHIP HAS MADE A REAL EFFORT TO MEET, WELCOME, AND EDUCATE THE NEWLY-ARRIVED PRINCIPALS OF THE MILITARY COMPONENT OF THE IRANIAN ICCS DELEGATION, INCLUDING MAJOR GENERAL SODAIFY, HIS REGIONAL TEAM CHIEFS, AND SOME KEY HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL.

2. B/G PHAN-HOA-HIEP CELEBRATED HIS 47TH BIRTHDAY OCTOBER 27 BY OFFICIALLLY MOVING UP TO REPLACE LTG PHAM-QUOC-THUAN AS CHIEF OF THE GVN TPJMC DELEGATION AND BY GIVING AT HIS RESIDENCE A  
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BIRTHDAY PARTY WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY BILLED AS A WELCOME TO

GENERAL SODAIKY AND HIS COMPATRIOTS. THE PARTY SERVED TO INTRODUCE THE IRANIAN TEAM CHIEFS TO THEIR GVN COUNTERPARTS IN A RELAXED AND CONVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE PRIOR TO THE FORMER'S IMMINENT POSTING TO THE FIELD. IT APPEARED TO SUCCEED VERY WELL.

3. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RESUMPTION OF FULL ICCS ACTIVITIES, THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OF THE INDODEL, COLONEL ABBAS, HAD REQUESTED A JGS BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION FOR HIS KEY PERSONNEL. COLONEL NGHIA OF THE GVN TPJMC REQUESTED THAT THE IRANIANS ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE BRIEFING. THE AMBASSADORS AND PERHAPS FOUR SCORE OFFICERS OF THE TWO ICCS DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT FOR THE BRIEFING IN THE JGS CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10:00 O'CLOCK, OCTOBER 29. M/G TRIEN, RVNAF DCOS/OPS, COLONEL LUNG THE J-2, GENERAL HIEP, COL. HUNG OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S STAFF, AND OTHER JGS AND TPJMC OFFICERS WERE PRESENT ON THE GVN SIDE.

4. THE HALF-HOUR BRIEFING CORRESPONDED TO THE "ENEMY SITUATION" PORTION OF THE TRADITIONAL MILITARY BRIEFING. IT WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD, FACTUAL PRESENTATION AND VIRTUALLY DEVOID OF POLEMICS. IT PRESENTED AN ACCURATE AND CREDITABLE PICTURE OF THE GVN'S OPPONENTS, NEITHER DOWN-PLAYING NOR EXAGGERATING THE MILITARY THREAT. QUOTATIONS FROM PROMINENT COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN PORTRAYED COMMUNIST POLICY AS INTENTIONALLY CIRCUMVENTING THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND PREPARING FOR A REVERSION TO ALL-OUT ARMED STRUGGLE. THE BRIEFERS PRESENTED THE MONTHLY TOTALS OF COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, RECENT MAJOR VIOLATIONS SUCH AS LE MINH AND BACH MA, COMMUNIST FORCE DISPOSITIONS, AND PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COMMUNIST INSTIGATED MILITARY ACTIVITY. THE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION AND MILITARY BUILDUP WERE COVERED IN SOME DETAIL: 100,000 PERSONNEL, 600 TANKS, 600 HEAVY FIELD GUNS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, AND SAM MISSILES (KHE SAN AND LAO BAO) BROUGHT IN SINCE THE JANUARY CEASEFIRE AND THE TWELVE AIRFIELDS REHABILITATED AND IMPROVED. THIS, STATED THE BRIEFER, REPRESENTED A 25 PER CENT INCREASE IN ENEMY FORCES, 90 PER CENT OF WHOM ARE NORTHERNERS.

5. UNDER CURRENT COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, THE BRIEFERS STRESSED ASSASSINATIONS, ABDUCTIONS, AND OTHER FORMS OF TERRORISM TARGETTED AGAINST CIVILIANS. CURRENT COMMUNIST EMPHASIS ON COMBINED ARMS TRAINING FOR ITS MAIN FORCE UNITS AND SAPPER AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HEAVY WEAPONS TRAINING FOR LOCAL FORCES WERE VITED AS EVIDENCE OF PREPARATIONS FOR "A FORTHCOMING GNERAL OFFENSIVE STRONGER THAN THE ONE IN 1972." THE BRIEFERS SPOKE SEVERAL TIMES OF THE "OFFENSIVE WHICH WE PREDICT MAY TAKE PLACE" AND STATED THAT INDICATIONS ARE THAT COMMUNIST PREPARATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETE BY EARLY IN THE 1974 DRY SEASON. IN CONCLUSION, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE GRADUALLY INCREASING THE LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF THEIR VIOLATIONS DURING THE CURRENT STATE OF

HALF-WAR/HALF-PEACE TO MAKE THE CEASEFIRE LESS AND LESS EFFECTIVE, AND HAD RECENTLY INCREASED THEIR OVERT MILITARY ACTIVITIES WHILE ACCUSING THE GVN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULTING VIOLATIONS.

6. THE HALF-HOUR QUESTION PERIOD WAS OPENED BY A REQUEST FROM GENERAL SODAIFY FOR PRESENTATION OF GVN PLANS AND ACTIONS TO COUNTER THE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES JUST DESCRIBED. THE BRIEFING ITSELF HAD INCLUDED ABSOLUTELY NO REFERENCE TO RVNAF ACTIVITIES, DISPOSITIONS, OR INTENTIONS AND THE BRIEFERS REPLIED THAT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO RESPOND TO THE GENERAL'S REQUEST. THEREAFTER, COLONEL ABBAS TOOK OVER AND ASKED QUESTIONS WHICH WERE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO FURTHER EDUCATE THE AUDIENCE ALONG THE LINES DESIRED BY HIS HOSTS. IN RESPONSE TO ONE QUESTION, GENERAL TRIEN STATED CONFIDENTLY THAT THE RVNAF AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED COULD COPE WITH THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COMMUNIST FORCES AT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF INFILTRATION, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER A FUTURE INCREASE IN RVNAF WOULD BE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INFORMATION ON FUTURE COMMUNIST PLANS FOR THEIR FORCES PRESENTLY LOCATED IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. A TRANSFER OF THESE FORCES TO THE RVN MIGHT REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN RVNAF. HE WENT ON TO ADD, MOREOVER, THAT THE GVN WAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENCE OF THE ICCS AND "MUST RELY ON THE ICCS FOR HELP ALONG THESE LINES."  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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